

VZCZCXYZ0014
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHKO #2728 2740828
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 300828Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7612
INFO RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHHMMCA/COMFLEACT OKINAWA JA PRIORITY
RHMFISS/COMMARCORBASESJAPAN CAMP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RUHEHMS/COMMARCORBASESPAC CAMP H M SMITH HI PRIORITY
RUHPSAA/COMMARFORPAC PRIORITY
RUYNAA/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/USFJ PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 002728

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/30/2018
TAGS: [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: SECNAV DISCUSSES GUAM, OEF, AND RUSSIA WITH NEW
DEFENSE MINISTER, VICE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Classified By: AMBASSADOR J. THOMAS SCHIEFFER,
REASONS 1.4(B) AND (D).

¶1. (U) Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter met September 26 with newly appointed Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada and MOFA Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Mitoji Yabunaka. Ambassador Schieffer and Commander of Naval Forces Japan Rear Admiral James Kelly joined Secretary Winter.

¶2. (C) Defense Minister Hamada urged the U.S. government to consider Japan's request to incrementally fund projects on Guam and to offer tax waivers for Japanese money. Secretary Winter told Hamada that the USG ability to permit incremental funding was constrained by U.S. law and absent an act of Congress, which is not a realistic option, the United States and Japan must to work through this issue and move forward. Despite these and other challenges, Secretary Winter stressed the U.S. commitment to the Guam relocation project. The Ambassador added that the Japanese government's request for exemption from Guam taxes would create a burden on the people of Guam.

¶3. (C) During a separate meeting with Vice Minister Yabunaka, Secretary Winter noted the U.S. government's appreciation for Japanese support of OEF and hoped that Japan would be able to continue its mission despite current domestic political challenges. Yabunaka emphasized that new Prime Minister Aso has said he will "do his utmost" to continue these operations as it is important "both for the international community and Japan." Indicating concern about Russia's recent actions in Georgia, Secretary Winter asked for Japan's support in developing an appropriate response. Yabunaka said Russia's recent behavior in Georgia should not be looked at as an isolated incident, and said that the international community should "express multilaterally" our dissatisfaction with Russia.
SCHIEFFER